

MINUTES OF THE SENATE WAYS AND MEANS COMMITTEE

The meeting was called to order by Chairman Stephen Morris at 10:35 a.m. on February 4, 2004, in Room 123-S of the Capitol.

All members were present except:
Senator Jim Barone- excused

Committee staff present:

Alan Conroy, Director, Kansas Legislative Research Department
J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Amy Deckard, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Debra Hollon, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Susan Kannarr, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Becky Krahl, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Robert Waller, Kansas Legislative Research Department
Norman Furse, Revisor of Statutes
Jill Wolters, Senior Assistant, Revisor of Statutes
Judy Bromich, Administrative Analyst
Mary Shaw, Committee Secretary

Conferees appearing before the committee:

Senator Jay Emler
Daryl Johnson, Director, Lindsborg Emergency Medical Services (written)
David Lake, Administrator, Board of Emergency Medical Services
Reginald Robinson, President & CEO, Kansas Board of Regents (written)
Andy Sanchez, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Public Employees

Others attending:

See Attached List.

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, to approve the minutes of the January 20, January 21, January 23 and January 26, 2004, meetings. Motion carried on a voice vote.

Bill Introductions

Senator Downey moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, to introduce a bill concerning school districts; relating to school finance; providing revenue therefor (3rs1618). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Helgerson, to introduce a bill concerning fees for services provided by the State Treasurer's Office; establishing the Treasurer Services Reimbursement Fund (3rs 1774). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Senator Adkins moved, with a second by Senator Downey, to introduce a bill relating to the rail service improvement program (3rs1684). Motion carried on a voice vote.

Chairman Morris opened the public hearing on:

SB 351--Emergency medical services provider educational assistance act

Staff briefed the committee on the bill.

The Chairman welcomed Senator Jay Emler who explained that due to the weather, Daryl Johnson, the Director of the Lindsborg Emergency Medical Support Service, was not able to be in attendance at the meeting. Senator Emler presented the written testimony on behalf of Daryl Johnson, Director, Lindsborg Emergency Medical Service, in support of **SB 351** (Attachment 1). Senator Emler pointed out that Mr. Johnson wanted to express that his EMS service has nine active volunteers trying to cover 24/7 and 365 days

CONTINUATION SHEET

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a year and it is an extreme hardship. He explained that the purpose of the bill is intended to give some incentive to others to take the classes with the focus on reimbursement on the EMS-type classes which would possibly change the fiscal impact as well.

Chairman Morris welcomed David Lake, Administrator, State Board of Emergency Medical Services, who testified in support of **SB 351** ([Attachment 2](#)). Mr. Lake explained that one of the major concerns facing EMS providers throughout the country is recruitment and retention of personnel which is especially true in rural America as many of the providers are either part-time or volunteer status. He noted that to avoid considerable confusion, it is necessary to adequately define the term "volunteer" as the criteria established in the bill.

Written testimony was submitted by Reginald Robinson, President and CEO, Kansas Board of Regents, in regard to **SB 351** ([Attachment 3](#)). Committee questions and discussion followed.

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 351**.

The Chairman requested that all parties involved review the legislation and fine tune it to setting up the fund.

Chairman Morris continued the public hearing from January 27, 2004, on:

SB 275--Allowing private companies to construct correctional facilities

The Chairman welcomed Andy Sanchez, Executive Director, Kansas Association of Public Employees, in opposition to **SB 275** ([Attachment 4](#)). Mr. Sanchez distributed copies of:

- Grassroots Leadership, Corrections Corporation of America: A critical look at its first twenty years ([Attachment 5](#))
- Private Prisons in the United States, 1999: An assessment of Growth, Performance, Custody Standards, and Training Requirements ([Attachment 6](#))

Mr. Sanchez explained that they oppose **SB 275** on the premise of inherent problems that arise in the operation of a private prison. He noted that a private prison is a for-profit prison and, if **SB 275** is passed, Kansas will be part of an experiment. Mr. Sanchez urged the committee to invest in a sure thing and that is quality public services by public employees.

There being no further conferees to come before the committee, the Chairman closed the public hearing on **SB 275**.

J. G. Scott, Chief Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, continued the presentation from a previous meeting regarding the staff summary of the Governor's Budget Recommendations ([Attachment 7](#)).

The meeting adjourned at 12:00 p.m. The next meeting is scheduled for February 5, 2004.